

EXHIBIT 1

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

FIRST BANK CHICAGO F/K/A FIRST)	
BANK OF HIGHLAND PARK,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Case No. 1:23-CV-00643-MSN-JFA
v.)	
)	Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER)	
SERVICE CORPORATION,)	Magistrate Judge John F. Anderson
)	
Defendant.)	

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the parties' joint request that the Court enter this Order, and their agreement that the following limitations and restrictions should apply to documents and information produced for inspection and copying during the course of this litigation (the "Action"), the Court hereby **ORDERS** that:

1. Scope. This Protective Order (hereinafter "Protective Order" or "Order") shall apply to all documents or other information produced in the course of discovery or otherwise exchanged in this Action that the producing person or entity (the "Producing Entity") has designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" (a "Confidentiality Designation") pursuant to or anticipation of this Order, including but not limited to, all materials exchanged in connection with settlement discussions, all initial disclosures, all responses to discovery requests, all deposition testimony and exhibits, and all materials (including documents or testimony) produced by non-parties in response to subpoenas issued in connection with this matter, including all copies, excerpts, and summaries thereof (collectively the "Confidential Information").

2. Purpose. The purpose of this Protective Order is to protect against the unnecessary disclosure of Confidential Information.

3. Disclosure Defined. As used herein, “disclosure” or “to disclose” means to divulge, reveal, describe, summarize, paraphrase, quote, transmit, or otherwise communicate Confidential Information, and the restrictions contained herein regarding disclosure of Confidential Information also apply with equal force to any copies, excerpts, analyses, or summaries of such materials or the information contained therein, as well as to any pleadings, briefs, exhibits, transcripts or other documents which may be prepared in connection with this litigation which contain or refer to the Confidential Information or information contained therein.

4. Designating Material As Confidential. Any party, or any third party subpoenaed by one of the parties, may designate as Confidential and subject to this Protective Order any documents, testimony, written responses, or other materials produced in this case if they contain information that the Producing Entity asserts in good faith constitutes confidential personal information, medical or psychiatric information, trade secrets, personnel records, proprietary business information, or such other sensitive commercial information that is not publicly available. Information that is publicly available may not be designated as Confidential. The designation of materials as Confidential pursuant to the terms of this Protective Order does not mean that the document or other material has any status or protection by statute or otherwise except to the extent and for the purposes of this Order.

5. Form and Timing Of Designation.

a. Documents And Written Materials. The Producing Entity shall designate any document or other written materials as confidential pursuant to this Order by marking each page of the material with a stamp identifying it as “CONFIDENTIAL,” if practical to

do so. The person or entity designating the material shall place the stamp, to the extent possible, in such a manner that it will not interfere with the legibility of the document. Materials shall be so-designated prior to, or at the time of, their production or disclosure.

b. Electronically Stored Information (“ESI”): If a production response includes ESI, the Producing Entity shall make an effort to include within the electronic files themselves the Confidentiality Designation to the extent practicable. If that is not practicable, then the Producing Entity shall designate in a transmittal letter or email to the party to whom the materials are produced (the “Receiving Party”) using a reasonable identifier (e.g., the Bates range) any portions of the ESI that should be treated as Confidential Information.

c. Deposition Testimony. Deposition testimony will be deemed confidential only if designated as such when the deposition is taken or within 14 days after receipt of the deposition transcript. Such designation must be specific as to the portions of the transcript and/or any exhibits to which the Confidentiality Designation applies, except that any exhibit that was marked with a Confidentiality Designation at the time of production, and which still bears that mark at the time of its use in a deposition, shall be presumed to fall within the provisions of this Order without further designation.

6. Limitation Of Use.

a. General Protections. All information that has received a Confidentiality Designation, including all information derived therefrom, shall be used by any Receiving Party solely for purposes of prosecuting or defending this Action. A Receiving Party shall not use or disclose the Confidential Information for any other purpose, including but not limited to any business, commercial, or competitive purpose. Except as set forth in this

Order, a Receiving Party shall not disclose Confidential Information to any third party. This Order shall not prevent the Producing Entity from using or disclosing information it has designated as Confidential Information, and that belongs to the Producing Entity, for any purpose that the Producing Entity deems appropriate, except that the Producing Entity's voluntary disclosure of Confidential Information outside the scope of this Action may impact the protection that this Order would otherwise provide with regard to such information, once disclosed.

b. Persons To Whom Information Marked "Confidential" May Be Disclosed. Use or disclosure of any documents or information designated as Confidential Information, including all information derived therefrom, shall be restricted solely to the following persons who agree to be bound by the terms of this Protective Order, unless additional persons are stipulated by counsel or authorized by the Court:

1. outside counsel of record for the parties, and the administrative staff of outside counsel's firms;
2. in-house counsel for the parties, and the administrative staff for each in-house counsel;
3. any party to this action who is an individual and anyone with power of attorney with respect to that individual (but only after such persons with power of attorney have completed the certification attached hereto as Attachment A, Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to be Bound);
4. as to any party to this action who is not an individual, every employee, director, officer, or manager of that party, but only to the extent necessary to further the interest of the parties in this litigation;
5. independent consultants or expert witnesses (including partners, associates and employees of the firm which employs such consultant or expert) retained by a party or its attorneys for purposes of this litigation, but only to the extent necessary to further the interest of the parties in this litigation, and only after such persons have completed the certification attached hereto as Attachment A, Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to be

Bound;

6. the Court and its personnel, including, but not limited to, stenographic reporters regularly employed by the Court and stenographic reporters not regularly employed by the Court who are engaged by the Court or the parties during the litigation of this action;
7. the authors and the original recipients of the documents;
8. any court reporter or videographer reporting a deposition;
9. employees of copy services, microfilming or database services, trial support firms, and/or translators who are engaged by the parties during the litigation of this action;
10. interviewees, potential witnesses, deponents, hearing or trial witnesses, and any other person, where counsel for a party to this action in good faith determines the individual should be provided access to such information in order for counsel to more effectively prosecute or defend this action (as long as the disclosure occurs in the presence of counsel, and copies, duplicates, images, or the like are not removed or retained by any interviewee, potential witness, deponent, or hearing or trial witness), provided, however, that in all such cases the individual to whom disclosure is to be made has been informed that the information contained in the disclosed document(s) is confidential and protected by Court Order, that the individual understands that he/she is prohibited from disclosing any information contained in the document(s) to anyone; or
11. any other person agreed to in writing by the parties.

Prior to being shown any documents or information designated as Confidential Information, any person listed under paragraph 6(b)(3), 6(b)(4), or 6(b)(11) shall be advised that the Confidential Information is being disclosed pursuant to and subject to the terms of this Protective Order.

7. Inadvertent Production. In the event of an inadvertent production of any document or information subject to a claim of privilege or protection as work product, the parties agree to the protection of Protected Information (as defined below) against claims of waiver (including as against third parties and in other Federal and State proceedings) in the event such

information is produced during the course of the Action, whether pursuant to a Court order, a parties' discovery request, or informal production, as follows:

- a. the production of documents or electronically stored information ("ESI") (including, without limitation, metadata) subject to a legally recognized claim of privilege or other protection from production or other disclosure, including without limitation the attorney-client privilege and work-product doctrine, (collectively, "Protected Information"), shall in no way constitute the voluntary disclosure of such Protected Information unless the Producing Entity affirmatively indicates by its words or conduct that the disclosure is intentional;
- b. unless the Producing Entity affirmatively indicates by its words or conduct that the disclosure is intentional, the production of Protected Information shall not result in the waiver of any privilege or protection associated with such Protected Information as to the Receiving Party, or any third parties, and shall not result in any waiver of protection, including subject matter waiver, of any kind;
- c. if any document or ESI (including, without limitation, metadata) received by a party is on its face clearly subject to a legally recognizable privilege, immunity, or other right not to produce such information, and the Producing Entity has not affirmatively indicated by its words or conduct that the disclosure was intentional, the Receiving Party will promptly upon discovering the issue notify the Producing Entity in writing that it has discovered Protected Information, identify the Protected Information by Bates Number range, and return or sequester such Protected Information until the Producing Entity confirms whether it does indeed assert any privilege or other protection protecting this information. Once the Producing Entity asserts privilege or other protection over such Protected Information (as described in Subparagraph (e) below), the Receiving Party will return, sequester, or destroy all copies of such Protected Information, along with any notes, abstracts or compilations of the content thereof, within ten (10) business days of notice from the Producing Entity;
- d. upon the request of the Producing Entity, the Receiving Party will promptly disclose the names of any individuals who have read or have had access to the Protected Information;
- e. if the Producing Entity intends to assert a claim of privilege or other protection over Protected Information identified by the Receiving Party, the Producing Entity will, within ten (10) business days of receiving the Receiving Party's written notification, inform the Receiving Party of such intention in writing and shall provide the Receiving Party with a log for such Protected Information that is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, setting forth expressly the nature of the claim of privilege or other protection supported by a description of the nature of the documents, communications, or things that is sufficient to enable the Receiving Party to contest the claim of privilege or other

protection. In the event any portion of the Protected Information that is responsive to a discovery request or otherwise required to be disclosed does not contain privileged or protected information, the Producing Entity shall also provide to the Receiving Party a redacted copy of the Protected Information that omits the information that the Producing Entity believes is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection;

- f. if, during the course of the Action, a party determines it has produced Protected Information, the Producing Entity may notify the Receiving Party of such production in writing. The Producing Entity's written notice must identify the Protected Information by Bates Number range, the privilege or protection claimed, and the basis for the assertion of the privilege or other protection and shall provide to the Receiving Party a log for such Protected Information that is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, setting forth expressly the nature of the claim of privilege or other protection supported by a description of the nature of the documents, communications, or things that is sufficient to enable the Receiving Party to contest the claim of privilege or other protection. In the event any portion of the Protected Information that is responsive to a discovery request or otherwise required to be disclosed does not contain privileged or protected information, the Producing Entity shall also provide to the Receiving Party a redacted copy of the Protected Information that omits the information that the Producing Entity believes is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection. The Producing Entity must also demand the return of the Protected Information. After receiving such written notification, the Receiving Party must, within ten (10) business days of receiving the written notification, return, sequester, or destroy the specified Protected Information and any copies, along with any notes, abstracts or compilations of the content thereof;
- g. a Receiving Party's return, sequestration, or destruction of such Protected Information as provided in the Subparagraphs above will not act as a waiver of the Receiving Party's right to move for the production of the returned, sequestered, or destroyed Protected Information on grounds that the Protected Information is not in fact subject to a viable claim of privilege or other protection. However, the Receiving Party is prohibited and estopped from arguing that the Producing Entity's production of the Protected Information in this matter acts as a waiver of applicable privileges or protections, that the disclosure of the Protected Information by the Producing Entity was not inadvertent, that the Producing Entity did not take reasonable steps to prevent the disclosure of the Protected Information, or that the Producing Entity did not take reasonable steps to rectify such disclosure; and
- h. nothing contained herein is intended to or shall limit a Producing Entity's right to conduct a review of documents or ESI (including, without limitation, metadata), for relevance, responsiveness, and/or the segregation of privileged and/or protected information before such information is produced to the Receiving Party;
- i. prior to production to another party, all copies, electronic images, duplicates, extracts, summaries, or descriptions (collectively "copies") of documents marked

with a Confidentiality Designation under this Order, shall be affixed with the same Confidentiality Designation if it does not already appear on the copy. All such copies shall thereafter be entitled to the protection of this Order. The term “copies” shall not include indices, electronic databases, or lists of documents provided these indices, electronic databases, or lists do not contain substantial portions or images of the text of confidential documents or otherwise disclose the substance of the Confidential Information contained in those documents.

- j. if a party inadvertently discloses any document or thing containing information that it deems Confidential Information without designating it pursuant to this Protective Order, the Producing Entity shall promptly upon discovery of such inadvertent disclosure inform the Receiving Party in writing, forwarding a replacement copy of the inadvertently disclosed material properly marked with a Confidentiality Designation pursuant to this Order. The Receiving Party shall thereafter treat the information as if it had been properly marked from the outset and shall make a reasonable effort to retrieve and sequester or destroy the unmarked version of the inadvertently disclosed material. Disclosure by the Receiving Party to unauthorized persons before being notified of the inadvertent disclosure shall not constitute a violation of this Protective Order. Nothing in this Protective Order shall preclude the Receiving Party from challenging the Confidentiality Designation of the late-marked material pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 12.

8. Filing Materials Containing Information With A Confidentiality Designation.

In the event a party seeks to file with the Court any Confidential Information subject to protection under this Order, that party must take appropriate action to ensure that the document receives proper protection from public disclosure, including: (a) filing a redacted document with the consent of the party who designated the document as confidential; (b) where appropriate (e.g., in relation to discovery and evidentiary motions), submitting the document solely for in camera review; or (c) when the preceding measures are inadequate, seeking permission to file the document under seal by filing a motion for leave to file under seal. The burden of establishing that sealing of Confidential Information is appropriate shall, at all times, remain with the person or entity that made the Confidentiality Designation.

Any motion to file a document subject to this Order under seal must meet the Fourth Circuit’s standard set forth in *Virginia Dept. of State Police v. Washington Post*, 386 F.3d 567 (4th Cir. 2004). The burden of demonstrating the need for and appropriateness of a sealing order is

borne by the moving party, and requires the moving party to show some significant interest outweighing the presumption of public right of access. Regardless of whether the parties agree, it remains the Court's independent obligation to weigh the appropriate competing interests in determining whether a seal is appropriate. Any proposed sealing, even when compelling reasons exist, must be narrowly tailored to serve the interest at stake.

When a party to this Order seeks to file documents which it believes may warrant sealing, but is not the party who may be prejudiced by the document or documents becoming part of the public record, the filing party shall provide the potentially-prejudiced party or parties, or any potentially-prejudiced third party or parties, with written notification of its intent to file such documents at least (14) **fourteen days** before doing so. After being provided such notice, the potentially harmed party or parties will then have (7) **seven days** to file with the Court a motion for sealing. The Court will rule on the motion as promptly as possible.

9. Excluding Others From Access. Whenever information bearing a Confidentiality Designation pursuant to this Protective Order is to be discussed at a deposition, the person or entity that designated the information may exclude from the room any person, other than persons designated in Paragraph 6 of this Order, as appropriate, for that portion of the deposition.

10. No Voluntary Disclosure To Other Entities. The parties or anyone acting on their behalf may not voluntarily disclose any Confidential Information to any state or federal law enforcement or regulatory agency, or any employee thereof, except in this Action as set forth in Paragraph 6 of this Order or as otherwise commanded by law or provided in this Order. Nothing in this Order shall prevent a party from providing information in its possession in response to a valid order or subpoena from a law enforcement or regulatory agency requiring the production of such information, except that, prior to such production, the party producing the information shall

provide as much advance notice as possible to the person or entity that designated the material as confidential to facilitate that party's efforts to preserve the confidentiality of the material, if warranted.

11. Disputes As To Designations. Each party has the right to dispute the Confidentiality Designation asserted by any other party or subpoenaed person or entity in accordance with this Protective Order. If a party believes that any documents or materials have been inappropriately designated by another party or subpoenaed party, that party shall confer with counsel for the person or entity that designated the documents or materials. As part of that conferral, the designating person or entity must assess whether designating only a portion of the documents as confidential and providing redacted versions without the confidentiality designation is a viable alternative. In the event the parties are unable to resolve a disagreement over a designation, the party challenging the designation may file a motion asking the Court to resolve the dispute. If any party challenges the Confidentiality Designation of any document or information, the burden to properly maintain the designation shall, at all times, remain with the person or entity that made the designation to show that said document or information should remain protected pursuant to Federal Civil Rule 26(c). In the event of disagreement, then the designating person or entity shall file a motion pursuant to Federal Civil Rule 26(c). A party who disagrees with the designation must nevertheless abide by that designation until the matter is resolved by agreement of the parties or by order of the Court.

12. Information Security Protections. Any person in possession of Confidential Information received from another person or entity in connection with this Action shall exercise reasonable and appropriate care to protect the security and confidentiality of such Confidential Information, protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security of such

Confidential Information, and protect against unauthorized access to or use of such Confidential Information.

If a Receiving Party discovers a breach of security, including any actual or suspected unauthorized access, to Confidential Information subject to this Order, it shall: (1) notify the person or entity who designated the materials as confidential under the terms of this Order of such breach; (2) investigate and take reasonable efforts to remediate the effects of the breach; and (3) provide sufficient information about the breach that the Producing Entity can reasonably ascertain the size and scope of the breach. The Receiving Party agrees to cooperate with the Producing Entity or law enforcement in investigating any such security incident. In any event, the Receiving Party shall promptly take all necessary and appropriate corrective action to terminate the unauthorized access.

13. All Trials Open To Public. All trials, and certain pretrial proceedings and hearings, are open to the public (collectively a “Public Hearing” or “Public Hearings”). Absent further order of the Court, there will be no restrictions on any Party’s ability to the use during a Public Hearing any document or information that has marked with a Confidentiality Designation or documents or information derived therefrom that would disclose such Confidential Information. However, if a party intends to present at a Public Hearing any document or information that has been so designated, the party intending to present such document or information shall provide advance notice to the person or entity that made the Confidentiality Designation at least (5) **five** days before the Public Hearing by identifying the documents or information at issue as specifically as possible (i.e., by Bates Number, page range, deposition transcript line, etc.) without divulging the actual documents or information. Any person may then seek appropriate relief from the Court

regarding restrictions on the use of such documents or information at trial, or sealing of the courtroom, if appropriate.

14. No Waiver Of Right To Object. This Order does not limit the right of any party to object to the scope of discovery in the above-captioned action.

15. No Determination Of Admissibility. This Order does not constitute a determination of the admissibility or evidentiary foundation for the documents or a waiver of any party's objections thereto.

16. No Admissions. Designation by any party of information or documents under the terms of this Order, or failure to so designate, will not constitute an admission that information or documents are or are not confidential or trade secrets. Neither party may introduce into evidence in any proceeding between the parties, other than a motion to determine whether the Protective Order covers the information or documents in dispute, the fact that the other party designated or failed to designate information or documents under this Order.

17. No Prior Judicial Determination. This Order is based on the representations and agreements of the parties and is entered for the purpose of facilitating discovery in this Action. Nothing in this Order shall be construed or presented as a judicial determination that any documents or information as to which counsel or the parties made a Confidentiality Designation is in fact subject to protection under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise until such time as the Court may rule on a specific document or issue.

18. Order Subject To Modification. This Order shall be subject to modification by the Court on its own motion or on motion of a party or any other person with standing concerning the subject matter.

19. Parties May Consent To Disclosure. Nothing shall prevent disclosure beyond the terms of this Order if all parties consent to such disclosure, or if the Court, after notice to all affected parties, permits such disclosure. Specifically, if and to the extent any party wishes to disclose any Confidential Information beyond the terms of this Order, that party shall provide all other parties with reasonable notice in writing of its request to so disclose the materials. If the parties cannot resolve their disagreement with respect to the disclosure of any Confidential Information, then a party may petition the Court for a determination of these issues. In addition, any interested member of the public may also challenge the designation of any material as confidential, pursuant to the terms of this paragraph.

20. Destruction Of Materials Upon Termination Of Litigation. Upon the written request of the Producing Entity, within 30 days after the entry of a final judgment no longer subject to appeal on the merits of this case, or the execution of any agreement between the parties to resolve amicably and settle this case, the parties and any person authorized by this Protective Order to receive Confidential Information shall destroy all information and documents subject to this Protective Order, unless the specific document or information has been offered into evidence or filed without restriction as to disclosure. The party destroying the documents or other information shall certify, if requested by the designating party, that it has not maintained any copies of Confidential Information, except as permitted by this Order.

21. Counsel Allowed To Retain Copy Of Files. Nothing in this Protective Order shall prevent outside counsel for a party from maintaining in its own files and work product relating to the Action, including any filings, transcripts or other documents that incorporate or attach Confidential Information. Moreover, an attorney may use his or her work product in subsequent litigation provided that such use does not disclose any Confidential Information.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____

HON. MICHAEL S. NACHMANOFF
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

AGREED TO:

/s/ Debbie Devassy Babu

Debbie Devassy Babu (admitted *pro hac vice*)
David Alexander Darcy (admitted *pro hac vice*)
DARCY & DEVASSY PC
444 N. Michigan Ave Suite 3270
Chicago, IL 60611
Ddevassy@darcydevassy.com
Adarcy@darcydevassy.com

Bradley Todd Canter
Ronald Scott Canter
THE LAW OFFICES OF RONALD S.
CANTER LLC
200a Monroe St Suite 104
Rockville, MD 20850
Bcanter@roncanterllc.com
Rcanter@roncanterllc.com

Counsel for Plaintiff First Bank Chicago

/s/ Michelle S. Kallen

Michelle S. Kallen (Bar No. 93286)
JENNER & BLOCK LLP
1099 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 639-6000
Facsimile: (202) 639-6066
MKallen@jenner.com

Jared M. Klaus (admitted *pro hac vice*)
James A. King (admitted *pro hac vice*)
PORTER WRIGHT MORRIS & ARTHUR LLP
41 South High Street, Suites 2800 – 3200
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 227-2000
Facsimile: (614) 227-2100
JKing@porterwright.com
JKlaus@porterwright.com

*Counsel for Defendant American Electric
Power Service Corporation*

ATTACHMENT A

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

FIRST BANK CHICAGO F/K/A FIRST)	
BANK OF HIGHLAND PARK,)	
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Plaintiff,)	
)	Case No. 1:23-CV-00643-MSN-JFA
v.)	
)	Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER)	
SERVICE CORPORATION,)	Magistrate Judge John F. Anderson
)	
Defendant.)	

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT TO BE
BOUND BY PROTECTIVE ORDER**

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that [he/she] has read the Protective Order dated _____ in the above-captioned action and attached hereto, understands the terms thereof, and agrees to be bound by its terms. The undersigned submits to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in matters relating to the Protective Order and understands that the terms of the Protective Order obligate [him/her] to use documents designated “CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with the Order, solely for the purpose of the above-captioned action, and not to disclose any such documents or information derived directly therefrom to any other person, firm, or concern.

The undersigned acknowledges that violation of the Protective Order may result in penalties for contempt of court.

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Date: _____

Signature